

Where are weapons of mass destruction?

ABC News, June 6, 2003

In September, 2002, Defense Intelligence Agency reported: "There is no reliable information on whether Iraq is producing or stockpiling chemical weapons or whether Iraq has -- or will -- established its chemical warfare agent production facilities."

On September 26, 2002, Rumsfeld said in News Conference, "We know they have weapons of mass destruction; we know they have active program. There is no need of debate about it." Former Intelligence Analyst said, "No reliable evidence means what it says, if any one is trying to pretend it is taken out of context, it is laughable."

ABC reporter: "This is a key strategic document, one prepared for the Central Command, the last one before war began."

ABC News, June 5, 2003

On January 28, 2003 Bush said in his State of the Union address: "British intelligence found that Saddam Hussein has recently sought a significant quantity of uranium." But months before, intelligence at the State Department has said that the information was "worse than worthless," and the document that got to British is forgery.

On October 7, 2002, President Bush said, "Surveillance photos revealed that regime has built facilities to produce chemical/biological weapons." On February 5, 2003, Colin Powell said in U.N., "Satellite image shows chemical bunker and suspicious vehicles." But U.N. inspectors visited the site and found only fire trucks.

On February 8, 2003, President Bush's radio address: "We have sources that tell us Saddam Hussein recently authorized Iraqi field commanders to use chemical weapons." Brigade General Michael Ennis, Director of the Marine Corps Intelligence said, "We really believed that Iraqi was going to use chemical weapons on our forces, we frankly got that wrong."

Some Iraq Analysts Felt Pressure From Cheney Visits

by Walter Pincus and Dana Priest, *Washington Post*, June 5, 2003

Vice President Cheney and his most senior aide made multiple trips to the CIA over the past year to question analysts studying Iraq's weapons programs and alleged links to al Qaeda, creating an environment in which some analysts felt they were being pressured to make their assessments fit with the Bush administration's policy objectives, according to senior intelligence officials... Former and current intelligence officials said they felt a continual drumbeat, not only from Cheney and Libby, but also from Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz, Feith, and less so from CIA Director George J. Tenet, to find information or write reports in a way that would help the administration make the case that going into Iraq was urgent.

Iraq's Weapons: A Vital Inquiry

by John S. Duffield, *The New York Times*, June 5, 2003

But can a war, especially a war of choice, that was justified primarily on misleading or erroneous grounds ever be considered legitimate in a democratic society? And can an administration that deceives the American people on a matter with such great political, economic and security implications be trusted to serve the public interest on any other issues?

Blair Accused Of Distorting Intelligence On Iraqi Arms

by Warren Hoge, *The New York Times*, June 5, 2003

Prime Minister Tony Blair, President Bush's chief ally in the war in Iraq, told a boisterous session of the House of Commons today that charges that the government distorted spy reports to exaggerate the threat of unconventional weapons and justify the war were false... "These allegations are not going to go away," said Iain Duncan Smith, leader of the opposition Conservatives, who until now has given the government unquestioning support of the Iraq war. "The truth is that nobody believes a word now that the prime minister is saying."

Aid Denies Shaping Data to Justify War

by Eric Schmitt, *The New York Times*, June 5, 2003

The Pentagon's policy advisor held a rare briefing today to rebut accusations that senior civilian policy makers had politicized intelligence to fit their hawkish views on Iraq and to justify war on Saddam Hussein. ...Mr. Feith (Under

Secretary of Defense for Policy) declined to comment on a growing chorus of criticism that American intelligence miscalculated the threat of Iraq's weapons programs or that policy makers exaggerated the threat. Eight weeks after the Iraq war ended, American forces have yet to find any chemical or biological weapons in Iraq. ...After Mr. Feith's nearly hourlong briefing, some defense officials... said they were baffled or angered by his remarks. One senior official, who said he was skeptical of Mr. Feith's account, was too angry to answer immediately. Another official said simply, "There was a lot of doublespeak out there."

Britain to probe decision on war

by Robert Barr, *The Journal News*, June 4, 2003

A parliamentary committee announced yesterday it would hold an inquiry into the government's decision to go to war with Iraq, as pressure mounted on Prime Minister Tony Blair to explain claims that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.

Standard Operating Procedure

by Paul Krugman, *The New York Times*, June 3, 2003

Suggestions that the public was manipulated into supporting an Iraq war gain credibility from the fact that misrepresentation and deception are standard procedure for this administration, which - to an extent never before seen in U.S. history - systematically and brazenly distorts the facts. ...Max Hastings, the veteran war correspondent - who supported Britain's participation in the war - writes that "the Prime Minister committed British troops and sacrificed British lives on the basis of a deceit, and it stinks."

But the important point is that this isn't about Saddam: it's about us. The public was told that Saddam posed an imminent threat. If that claim was fraudulent, the selling of the war is arguably the worst scandal in American history - worse than Watergate, worse than Iran-Contra. ...Suppose that this administration did con us into war. And suppose that it is not held accountable for its deceptions, so Mr. Bush can fight what Mr. Hastings calls a "Khaki election" next year. In that case, our political system has become utterly, and perhaps irrevocably, corrupted.

Analysis of Iraqi Weapons 'Wrong'

by Greg Miller, *The Los Angeles Times*, May 31, 2003

The top Marine commander in Iraq said Friday that U.S. intelligence was "simply wrong" in its assessment that Saddam Hussein intended to unleash chemical or biological weapons against U.S. forces during the war, but he stopped short of saying there was an overall intelligence failure.

Lt. Gen. James Conway, commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, also said he had fully expected U.S. forces to find evidence of weapons of mass destruction after the war ended. "It was a surprise to me then, it remains a surprise to me now, that we have not uncovered weapons," Conway said from Baghdad in a teleconference call with reporters in Washington. "It's not for lack of trying," he said. "We've been to virtually every ammunition supply point between the Kuwaiti border and Baghdad, but they're simply not there." ...And Deputy Defense Paul D. Wolfowitz, in an interview with *Vanity Fair* magazine, sought to minimize the importance of weapons of mass destruction in the administration's calculus for war. "For bureaucratic reasons, we settled on one issue, weapons of mass destruction, because it was the one reason everyone could agree on," Wolfowitz said in comments released Wednesday.

Save Our Spooks

by Nicholas D. Kristof, *The New York Times*, May 30, 2003

"The Al Qaeda connection and nuclear weapons issue were the only two ways that you could link Iraq to an imminent security threat to the U.S.," notes Greg Thielmann, who retired in September after 25 years in the State Department, the last four in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. "And the administration was grossly distorting the intelligence on both things." The outrage among the intelligence professionals is so widespread that they have formed a group, Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity, that wrote to President Bush this month to protest what it called "a policy and intelligence fiasco of monumental proportions." "While there have been occasions in the past when intelligence has been deliberately warped for political purposes," the letter said, "never before has such warping been used in such a systematic way to mislead our elected representatives into voting to authorize launching a war."

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